

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. 143-2004**



**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** June 2, 2004

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jorge", written over the printed name "Jorge M. Gonzalez".

**Subject: SAFETY ISSUES / INTERSECTION OF 10TH STREET AND LENOX AVENUE**

Pursuant to a request from the residents of the above neighborhood, the City Public Works Department has taken the following measures to address concerns about vehicle accidents on the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Lenox Avenue.

- On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004, an e-mail was sent to Mr. Muhammed Hasan, Chief of Traffic Engineering Division – Miami Dade County Public Works Department, requesting a field review to determine the feasibility of installing a "Four-Way Stop" control at the subject location.
- On May 20, 2004, Mr. Hasan responded that the County inspection revealed a traffic signal just one block west on Alton Road. Mr. Hasan mentioned that due to the close proximity of this signalized intersection, if a "Four-Way Stop" control is installed, motorists driving westbound along this corridor may see a green light and not realize the presence of a Stop sign prior to the signalized intersection and fail to make a complete stop on Lenox Avenue. As such, this may create an unsafe condition and may increase the incidence of rear-end collisions. Furthermore, the preliminary traffic volume data does not meet the standards for a "Four-Way Stop" installation, as stipulated in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), published by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Additionally, physical characteristics of the intersection revealed that trees are illegally planted on the northwest corner of the subject location creating a hazardous condition as they obstruct motorists' view of other vehicles on the roadway.

Mr. Hasan also indicated that the tree branches at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street / Lenox Avenue intersection were covering the Stop sign and the Stop Ahead sign for the southbound traffic and, that the presence of these trees is also in violation of the Public Works Department standard for planting within public right-of-way. Mr. Hasan made a request to the City to cut and/or trim the trees and to provide hard copies of accidents so that the County's Public Works Department may determine if any other corrective measures are required to enhance the operational safety at the subject intersection / location.

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- On May 21st, 2004, the City Public Works Department contacted the City Parks Department and requested that their department trim the branches of a tree in private property blocking a Stop sign on the N.W. corner of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street / Lenox intersection. In addition, Parks was requested to trim and continue trimming trees at six other intersections in the Flamingo Neighborhood. The City has also requested the property owner to remove the tree to provide a better line of sight at the N.W. corner of the intersection.

The above steps have been taken by the City as a temporary measure until such time a traffic analysis is performed and recommendations for improvement have been analyzed by the Miami Dade County Traffic Engineering Division.

- On May 27, 2004, the City Police Department provided Public Works Department with nineteen traffic crash reports dating back three years. These reports were forwarded to Mr. Hasan on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. It would take the County approximately four to six weeks to evaluate accident report data and existing conditions to determine if a Four-Way Stop sign control at 10<sup>th</sup> Street / Lenox Avenue intersection is warranted.

For your information, the County has an exclusive jurisdiction to plan and determine the installation of traffic control devices on all public streets in Miami-Dade County, including municipal local streets. Traffic control devices, or in some cases, traffic calming cannot automatically be installed just because one or more citizens or businesses make a request. Various criteria related to traffic plan, safety, costs, federal and state standards, local ordinances, and street design must be examined. Warrants are the criteria used to determine the justification for installing a traffic control device. The County uses warrants consistent with national standards specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

I will provide you, as soon as it is completed, the final outcome of the County's evaluation and determination regarding the request to install Four-Way-Stop signs at the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Lenox Avenue.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any other concerns or questions.

  
JMG:RCM\FHB\MA\II

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager  
Fred H. Beckmann, Director of Public Works  
Michael Alvarez, Assistant Public Works Director